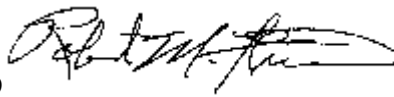


EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/02/05

EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/07
(Reissue of I03-IV-2)

PROCEDURE INSTRUCTION LETTER NO. I05-IV-1

FROM: ROBERT M. FRIEND
Administrator for
Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health



SUBJECT: Procedures for Inspection of Impoundments

Scope

This Procedure Instruction Letter (PIL) applies to Metal and Nonmetal (MNM) District Managers, Field Office Supervisors, and Inspectors whose duties include inspection and enforcement activities at impoundment sites.

Purpose

This PIL provides guidance for district enforcement personnel during inspection activities at impoundments. The instructions recommend the use of the attached inspection form to enhance inspection quality at such facilities. Further, the PIL requires field office supervisors to ensure that thorough inspections and associated notes address all critical items of an impoundment inspection.

Procedure Instruction

Impoundments shall be thoroughly inspected on a biannual basis if possible. The district manager shall require additional inspections at high hazard potential sites, sites undergoing major or critical construction phases, or where other potentially hazardous conditions are identified.

**MSHA METAL AND NONMETAL
TAILINGS AND WATER IMPOUNDMENT INSPECTION
FORM**

MINE ID _____ INSPECTOR _____
Date _____

Mine Name _____
Mining Company _____
Mine Product _____ MSHA District _____
MSHA Field Office _____

Name of Impoundment _____
(Report each impoundment on a separate form under the same Mine ID number)

New _____ Update _____

	Yes	No
Is impoundment currently under construction?	_____	_____
Is water or tailings currently being pumped into the impoundment?	_____	_____

IMPOUNDMENT FUNCTION:

_____ Tailings/Water Disposal
_____ Sediment Control
_____ Fresh Water

Nearest Downstream Town Name: _____
Distance from the impoundment _____
Dam Location: Longitude _____ Degrees _____ Minutes _____ Seconds
Latitude _____ Degrees _____ Minutes _____ Seconds
State _____ County _____

Does a state agency regulate this impoundment? YES _____ NO _____

If So, Which State Agency? _____

HAZARD POTENTIAL (In the event the impoundment should fail, regardless of how well or poorly built the dam is, the following would occur):

_____ Low: Facilities located in rural areas where failure would cause no loss of life and only slight property damage such as to farm buildings, forest or agricultural, or minor roads.

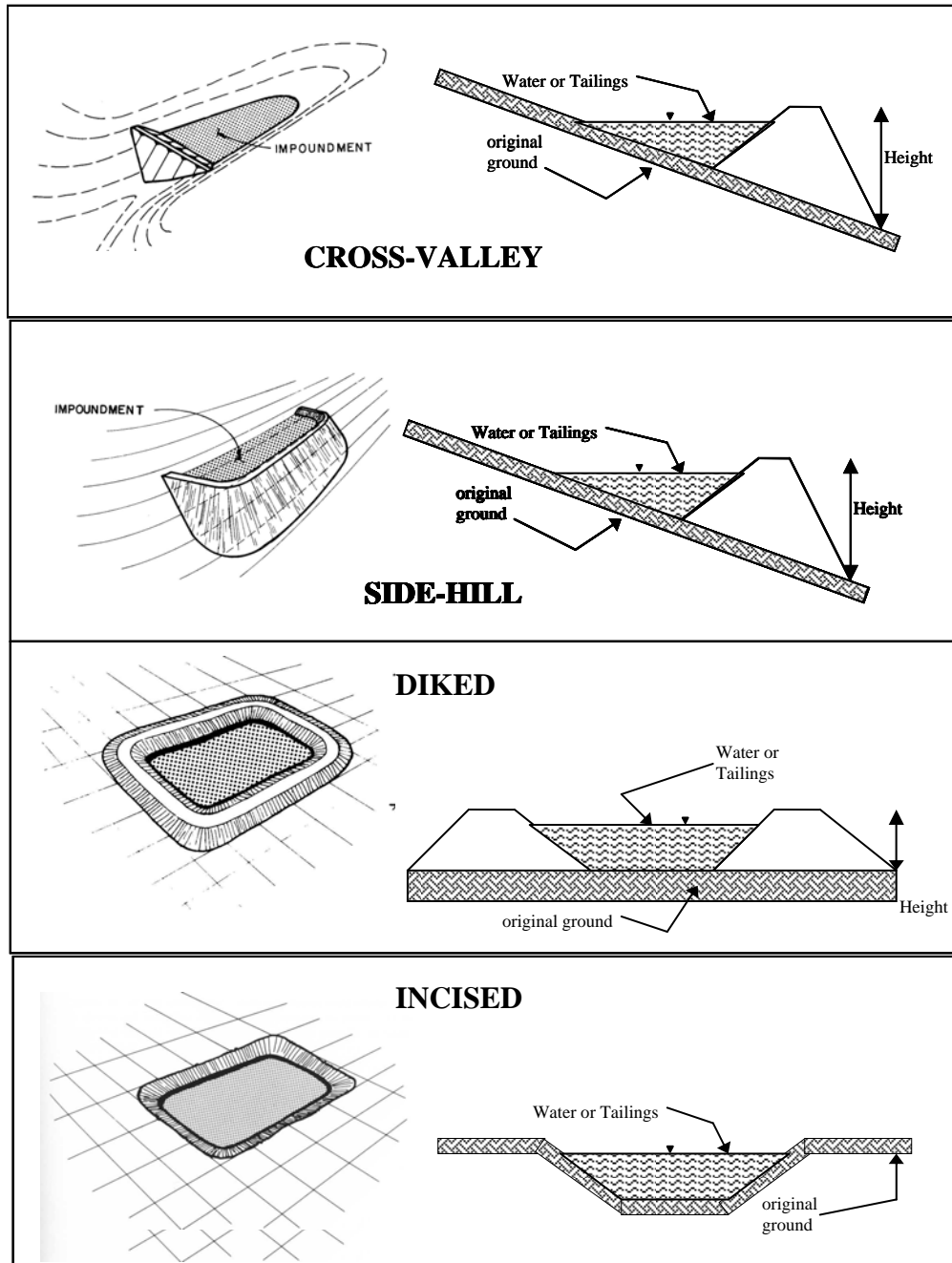
_____ Moderate: Facilities located in predominately rural areas where failure may cause minor damage to isolated homes, main highways or minor railroads disrupting services or relatively important facilities.

_____ High: Facilities located where a failure could be reasonably expected to cause loss of life, serious damage to houses, industrial; and commercial buildings, important utilities, highways and railroads.

DESCRIBE REASONING FOR HAZARD RATING CHOSEN:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

CONFIGURATION:



- ☐ Cross-Valley
☐ Side-Hill
☐ Diked
☐ Incised (form completion optional)

Embankment Height _____ feet
 Pool Area _____ acres
 Current Freeboard _____ feet

TYPE OF OUTLET (Mark all that apply)

Open Channel Spillway

- ☐ Trapezoidal
☐ Triangular
☐ Rectangular
☐ Irregular

- ☐ depth
☐ bottom (or average) width
☐ top width

Decant

- ☐ inside diameter

Material

- ☐ corrugated metal
☐ welded steel
☐ concrete
☐ plastic (hdpe, pvc, etc.)
☐ other (specify) _____

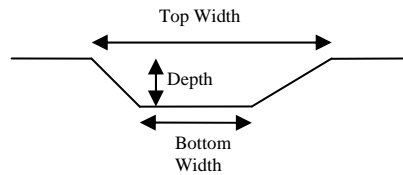
Is water flowing through the decant? YES _____ NO _____

No Outlet

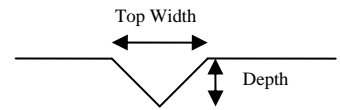
Other Type of Outlet (specify) _____

The Impoundment was Designed By _____

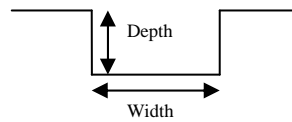
TRAPEZOIDAL



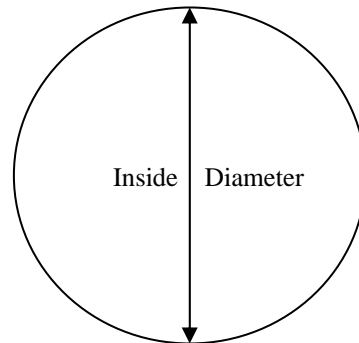
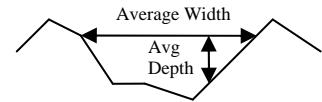
TRIANGULAR



RECTANGULAR



IRREGULAR



Has there ever been a failure at this site? YES _____ NO _____

If So When? _____

[illegible]

Inspectors should use the inspection form to document their observations of an impoundment. The form provides a standardized method of communicating all types of conditions observed by field personnel. If an inspector chooses not to use the form, the required information shall be written in the inspector's field notes.

Field office supervisors shall ensure that all areas of an impoundment are inspected. They should also ensure that observations made by inspectors during those activities are noted on the inspection form or in the inspector's field notes. Further, supervisors shall forward the form or field notes to the appropriate District personnel for any necessary follow-up action or for tracking purposes.

Background

This PIL provides guidance and clarification to ensure that congressionally mandated inspections of impoundments are performed in accordance with applicable provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, that field notes document that these inspections are thoroughly completed, and that reports associated with these inspections reflect observed conditions.

Authority

Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Section 103(a).

Filing Instructions

This instruction letter should be filed behind the tab marked "Procedure Instruction Letters" in the binder for Program Policy Handbooks and Procedure Instruction Letters.

Issuing Office and Contact Persons

Milburn Rinehart, MNM Division of Safety, 202- 693-9646

E-mail address: rinehart.milburn@dol.gov

Distribution

All Program Policy Manual Holders

Attachment